The FIRST BOOK of ITALY

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By SAM and BERYL EPSTEIN
Pictures by LILI RÉTHI

The FIRST BOOK of ITALY

Here is a fascinating introduction to the country that has given the world some of its greatest artists, musicians, scientists, inventors, and navigators. The authors take the reader from ancient times to the present in a land where modern traffic roars past the lovingly preserved ruins of ancient cities, where craftsmen practise the skills of their ancestors in the shadows of up-to-date factories, and primitive hill villages look down on fields cultivated by the newest methods and equipment.

Italy, home of the Catholic Church, is the Mecca of Catholics all over the world. Artists, scholars, students, and tourists arrive there by the thousands every year to study and marvel at treasures to be found nowhere else. In simple, vivid prose the authors present all the color and variety of that great country where the very old and the very new exist side by side.

(See back flap)

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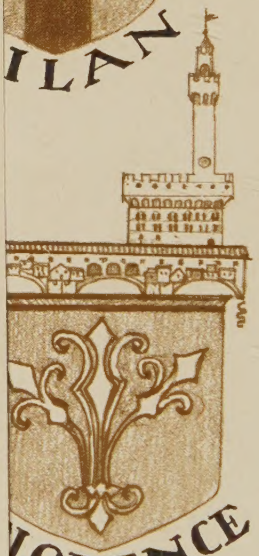

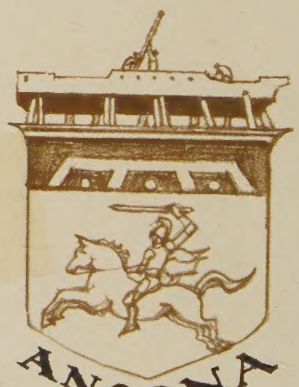

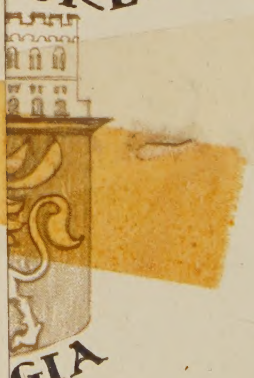

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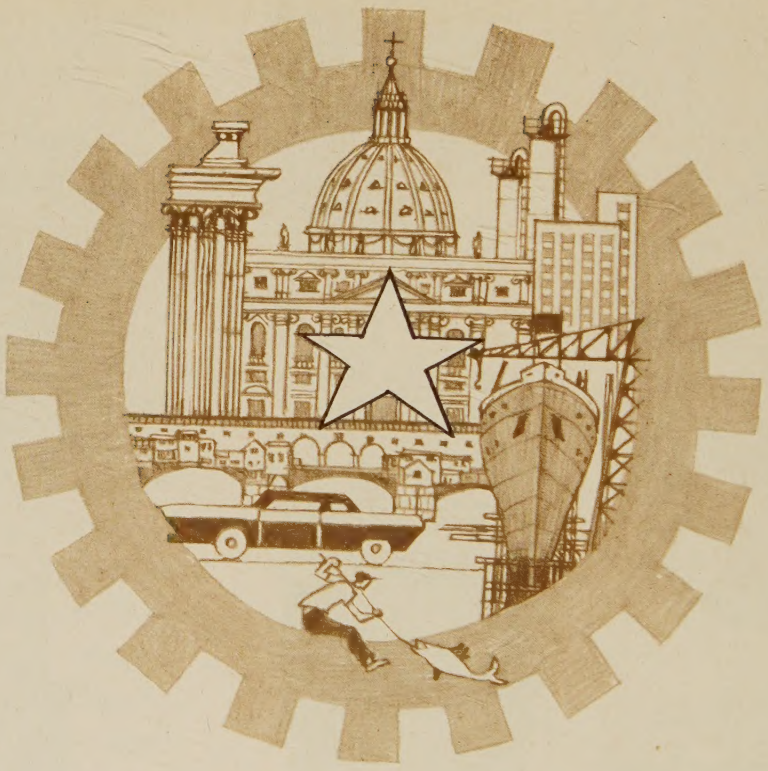

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by SAM and BERYL EPSTEIN

pictures by

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Contents

A Crowded Land, 1
The People, 2
Farming is Uphill Work, 6
Balancing the Budget, 10
Made in Italy, 10
Made by Hand in Italy, 12
Houses, 14
Piazzas, 15
Having Fun Italian Style, 17
Christmas Cribs and Easter Shrines, 20
Music Talk, 22
Going to School in Italy, 24
Elections Are Exciting, 25
All Roads Lead to Rome, 27
The Vatican, 34
Florence, A Living Museum, 38
The Renaissance, 42
Venice, A City Built on Water, 48
Milan, Genoa, and Naples, 52
Buried Treasure, 54
Three Islands: Sicily, Sardinia, Capri, 56
Gifts from Italy, 58
Some Famous Italians, 59
Index, 61

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Map of ITALY
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BARI
SASSARI
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CAGLIARI
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A Crowded Land

The long, narrow peninsula of Italy, shaped so oddly like a boot, lies at the very center of the Mediterranean Sea. One of its two big islands, Sardinia, is just off the knee of the boot, opposite Italy's capital city, Rome. The other island, Sicily, is close to the toe, only a few hours' sail from North Africa.

There are mountains almost everywhere in Italy. Craggy, snow-peaked Alps rise along the top edge of the boot's flaring cuff to make a wall between Italy and her neighbors to the north. On the border between Italy and France, Mont Blanc towers three miles into the sky – the highest mountain in Europe. Some of the most famous glaciers of the Alps flow down the sides of these mountains. The lakes at their feet are icy cold and brilliantly blue.

Alpine villages have steep streets, and the walls of their ancient stone houses are often three feet thick to keep out the bitter cold. But some of the new ski resort hotels in this region, heated by modern methods, are walled with glass, so that guests can look out over mountain views as spectacular as any in the world.

Down the whole length of Italy, and appearing again in Sicily, runs the range of hills called the Apennines. In this range are Italy's two live volcanoes – Mount Etna, in Sicily, and Mount Vesuvius, near the Bay of Naples.

A large part of the Apennines range spreads out over most of the peninsula, right to the water's edge. For the rest of its distance shallow, sandy lowlands stretch from the hills to the sea, sometimes on one side of the range, sometimes on both sides. The famous beaches of the Italian Riviera, in the northwestern corner of Italy, are seldom more than slender strips of pebbles rimming the sea.

The villages among the hills are mostly perched high on rocky crests, under huddled roofs of weathered red tile. Some of the coastal towns are wedged into the narrow spaces between cliffs and sea. Others are built straight up the sides of cliffs, looking like rows of white and colored blocks pasted against the rock. The roads, carved out of the mountainsides, twist and turn like corkscrews.

The only big valley in Italy lies just south of the Alps where the Po River and its branches have flattened out an area one-sixth the size of the whole country. Broad, smooth highways connect big cities and busy towns. But living space in this area is as cramped as it is in the mountains. Fifty million people live in Italy — almost one-third the population of the United States. And Italy is only about the size of New Mexico!

Italy has few natural resources. Except for rich deposits of mercury and sulphur, she has almost no mineral wealth. The great forests that once covered the mountains were cut down hundreds of years ago. Outside the fertile Po Valley there is little productive soil. Rainfall is scanty, and most of the rivers in the south dry up during the long, hot Italian summer. Only Italian skill at growing things, at making things, at living on very little, keeps the people alive in this small and crowded land.

The People

Like Americans, Italians are a mixture of many peoples from many different lands. The first to come into Italy were probably the Etruscans, believed to have come from somewhere to the north about four thousand years ago. Next came Greeks, from the far eastern end of the Mediterranean, and the Phoenicians. The Phoenicians were sometimes called Carthaginians, after the ancient city

of Carthage in North Africa where they had been living.

Other early inhabitants, first known as Latins, gave their name to the language spoken in Italy long ago. Later on people began to speak a dialect, or popular kind of Latin, which we know today as Italian. The ancient Latin is still used in Catholic Church services, however. In many lands, lawyers and doctors also use Latin words and phrases.

The Etruscans and the Latins fought each other until the Etruscans were defeated. Then the Latins, who came to be called Romans, fought the Greeks and Phoenicians and conquered them, too. Their chief city, Rome, became the most important city in the land. By the year I, it was the center of a vast empire that covered part of Africa, part of Asia, and almost all of Europe.

The Roman Empire lasted nearly four hundred years before it was destroyed by strangers from the north. The Vandals, the Goths, and the Huns came to loot and rob the Romans who had ruled them, and then they went back north again. But the German-born Lombards, tall, strong, and blond, settled just south of the Alps in the region that is still called Lombardy.

Then, from the south, from across the Mediterranean, came fierce, dark Arabs. They ruled Sicily and part of southern Italy for a time. The Spanish and the French came too, and they also held parts of the peninsula for several hundred years.

From these many different ancestors Italians have inherited their looks, their ways of life, and many of their special skills.

Italians famous for their pottery making, for example, use the skills and sometimes even the designs of the ancient pottery-making Etruscans. Modern factories that turn out hundreds of little clay figures of a saint from a single mold are using a method known in Italy long before the birth of Christ.

The sailors in Italy's fine navy, the crews of her busy merchant ships, all belong to an old tradition. The Phoenicians who came to Italy so long ago were the greatest sea traders and most daring navigators of their time. It is not surprising that the New World was discovered by an Italian. In the bustling port city of Genoa, where Christopher Columbus grew up, going to sea was as natural a thing for a young man to do as it is for hundreds of Italian boys today.

Italy's skilled stone masons learned their art from the columned temples erected more than two thousand years ago by the Romans. And the Romans had, in turn, learned to build such temples from Greek masons of even earlier times.

Triton Fountain and ancient **Temple of Vesta,** Rome

Modern Italian roads are among the best in the world because Italians have been building roads for centuries. The great Roman Empire was based on the roads that tied Rome to her more distant subjects, and some of these roads were so well built that they are still in use today. The Via Appia, or Appian Way, one of the chief highways leading out of modern Rome, was first paved in 312 B.C.

The farmers who irrigate Italy's fields are following models as old as her roads. Sometimes these men even make use of the stone aqueducts built at the order of emperors who ruled Italy when Italy ruled most of the known world.

Italian Catholics know that almost two thousand years ago Italians heard Christ's words from men who had known Jesus Himself.

Italians are proud of the past they all share, but Italians in different parts of the country are also proud of the things that make them unlike other Italians. In the north of Italy, for example, the people are proud to feel close to the rest of Europe. They can travel quickly into France and Switzerland by way of roads through Alpine passes, and by railroad lines that tunnel straight through the mountains. They know the chill of a real middle European winter. Most northern Italians are brisk, businesslike, and efficient. And in this area there are more blonds than there are in other parts of the country.

Southern Italians have learned to live under a sun that blazes the year around. They know the sand-laden wind called the sirocco, that blows across the Mediterranean from the Sahara Desert. They appreciate shade and an hour or two of rest during the worst heat of the day. And in this part of Italy, where the swarthy Greeks, the Phoenicians, and the dark-skinned Arabs once ruled, most people still have black hair and dark eyes.

Farming Is Uphill Work

The best farmlands in Italy lie in the fertile Po Valley. Here there are fine herds of cattle in lush pastures, peach and apple orchards, broad fields of grain, and acres of sugar beets and vegetables. From this region come most of the artichokes, and the feathery, licorice-tasting plant called *finocchi,* which Italians love.

Big tractors cultivate the Po Valley fields, and big, modern harvesters move across them when the grain is ripe. Trucks carry the produce swiftly to market.

An elaborate network of ditches covers the whole valley, for the fields must be supplied with water during the summer dry spells. Plenty of water to feed these ditches flows from the snow fields of the Alps into the Po River and its tributaries. It is even possible to flood a field completely for growing rice.

Elsewhere in Italy, farming is not so easy. Some farmers are fortunate enough to own land in the tiny mountain valleys, and they cultivate every inch of their precious lowland. To build even a single house on it would be wasteful, they feel. That is partly why so many Italian towns and villages are perched high on stony crags.

But there are the thousands of Italian farmers who own no lowland at all and have to farm the hillsides. Some of the hillsides are so steep that the fields are really huge steps of earth held in place by stone walls. They rise in a series of narrow terraces. Farmers climb from one terrace to the next by means of tiny steps set into the stone walls. They plant and cultivate by hand, for tractors and other big farm machinery cannot be brought up the steps. When harvest time comes the whole family works together. They carry

their crops to the barn or to the market on their backs, or on the backs of patient little burros, or in lumbering, ox-drawn wagons.

It takes months, even years, to build a new wall and make a new terrace. The stones must be gathered, sorted, and then carefully fitted into place, in the same way Roman farmers built similar walls long, long ago. The narrow shelf of earth at the top of the wall must be cleared of stones and prepared for planting. Some families add a new terrace or two every generation, slowly pushing their fields farther and farther up the hill.

On the stony top slope, usually too barren to support cattle, farmers often herd flocks of sheep and goats. They sell the wool to buyers for the textile industry, and the hides to Italy's leather workers. They drink part of the goat's milk and make cheese of the rest.

Italian hill farmers

Along the western coast of southern Italy and in Sicily, orange and lemon trees stand in terraced rows, protected from the hot Mediterranean sun by awnings of woven reed mats. These trees need warmth, but they do not need a great deal of water. They do well in this hot, dry climate. Nuts and olives thrive here, too.

Grapes are grown in almost every part of Italy. Each region is proud of its own carefully tended, neatly pruned vines. In some places the vines are trained along low supports. In others they climb slender saplings. The people of each region are also proud of the wine they make from their own grapes. They drink it with every meal and between meals, and they offer it to a guest as soon as he arrives. Farmers carry jugs of wine to their fields to drink at noon.

Most winemaking in Italy is done in modern wineries. But villagers, making wine for their own use, tread the grapes with their bare feet until the juice is squeezed out. They believe this ancient method still makes the best wine.

Villagers treading grapes for wine

Travelers through southern Italy are sometimes surprised to find that they have left behind an area of steep but carefully cultivated slopes to pass through a flatter region which has not been cultivated at all.

Most of this land is not owned by farmers. It belongs to one or another of the huge estates that once covered almost all this part of Italy. Their noble owners lived like feudal lords, some using their estates only for hunting. Others hired managers and laborers to work their land at low wages, or left it in the hands of tenant farmers. The nobles forced their workmen to cultivate the land for all it was worth, but they did not supply them with fertilizers to renew it. After many years the land wore out. Trees were cut down, but not replaced. Storms washed the unprotected slopes bare of top soil. A great part of southern Italy became a wasteland.

Since World War II the Italian government has been buying the worn-out estates and dividing them up among the people of that region. Each family receives several acres of ground, seed, equipment and, in some cases, a new house with modern improvements. The government asks no payment for the land at first, and the farmer does not own it right away. If he has done well at the end of two years, he has earned the right to buy his land. He pays for it at the rate of only a few dollars a month.

Government experts teach these new farmers modern methods for improving worn-out soil. They plant new forests, build dams for irrigation and electric power.

At the end of the first ten years of this land reform plan, 125,000 families were settled on new farms. Although the government has not yet bought enough of this "new" land to provide farms for all who need and want it, this once poverty-stricken part of Italy is already looking forward to a more prosperous future.

Balancing the Budget

Every time an acre of wasteland is fertilized and planted, Italy comes closer to feeding herself, but she must still import wheat and some other foods. The only farm products she exports in any quantity are citrus fruits, wine, olives, and olive oil.

Italy has wine to spare. Next to France, she is the biggest wine-producing country in the world. But when she exports some of her olive oil, many Italian cooks have to do without the oil they like best. In place of it they must use peanut or cottonseed oil. Often the ships that carry Italian olive oil to the United States return to Italy with cargos of oil made from American-grown peanuts.

Trading fine olive oil for peanut oil may seem a foolish thing to do, but Italians know that right now it is necessary. Olive oil is expensive. Many Italians cannot afford it. Buying a cheaper oil helps them balance not only their own budgets but their country's, too. The money Italy receives for her precious oil pays for some of the wheat and other basic foods she still has to buy from richer countries.

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Made in Italy

Before World War II, Italy was mainly an agricultural country. But during and after that war, more and more people worked in factories until, in 1957, there were more people working in industry than on the farms. For the first time in her history, Italy had become an industrial nation.

Most of Italy's mills and factories are in the north. There, the swift streams tumbling down the Alps supply power to generate plenty of electricity. Good highways and roads lead to the rest of Europe and to Italy's three big northern ports — Genoa, Venice,

and Trieste. This makes it easy to haul raw materials to the factories and to ship out finished products.

There are factories around the southern port of Naples, too, and factories and mills in central Italy, near Rome. Some of the largest produce textiles. In handsome new buildings men and women weave synthetic yarn into miles of the durable modern miracle fabrics which are as popular in Italy as they are in America. Workers in other mills weave the same kind of beautifully printed pure silk and fine woolen cloth that earned fame for Italian weavers centuries ago. Some of this cloth goes into making the beautiful and fashionable clothes for which Italian dress designers are known all over Europe and America today.

Chemical plants supply the synthetic fibers which are woven into cloth. They also turn out drugs, industrial chemicals, fertilizers, and other products.

Huge refineries process crude oil into gasoline, kerosene, lubricating oil, fuel oil, and all the other petroleum products that modern industry needs.

A big food-processing industry ships cheeses, wine, and olive oil to every part of Italy and to other lands, too. But Italy's most important industry is the metal industry. Thousands of people work in the plants that manufacture typewriters, adding machines and sewing machines, ship engines, aircraft equipment, farm machinery, and all sorts of wheeled vehicles. Some of the wheeled vehicles, especially the motor scooters and cars, are remarkably light and small. They can squeeze through the narrow streets of ancient Italian cities. They use very little gasoline, and can be made with small quantities of steel and other materials. Saving gasoline and steel is important to Italians, because Italy must import most of the petroleum and metal she uses and most of the coal

needed to process other materials. The little Italian cars and scooters have become popular in the United States, too. They can be parked in small places, and they cost very little to run.

Made By Hand in Italy

Not all workers in Italian industry are employed in big factories. Young girls and older women, sitting in the sun outside the doors of their own homes in southern Italy, hold cushion-like forms in their laps on which they make lace as delicate as cobwebs.

In small workrooms in many parts of Italy, skilled craftsmen fashion leather into shoes, gloves, handbags, belts, cigarette cases, and dozens of other articles. Leather work from Florence and the country around it is famous all over the world.

Making lace on a table form

Early Venetian glass

On the island of Murano, near Venice, master glassworkers blow bubble-thin goblets, and mold jewel-colored glass into bowls and vases and other lovely shapes. They also make beautiful glass beads – the same kind of beads that early American settlers took with them to trade with the Indians. The skill of Murano glass blowers has been handed down from father to son for centuries, from a time when death was the punishment for revealing Murano's precious glassmaking secrets to a foreigner.

Italian workers receive lower wages than workers in the United States, but they have a standard of workmanship that is much higher than their wage standard. They are excellent craftsmen and take great pride in their work. Their skill helps Italy to raise her living standards in spite of her lack of so many of the basic raw materials of modern industry.

Glass blower

Houses

Ever since the end of World War II, Italian builders have been busy replacing the thousands of buildings destroyed by bombs. Whole villages have been rebuilt. Big city neighborhoods, flattened into acres of rubble, have risen again.

Some of the ruined buildings were the centuries-old masterpieces of famous architects, decorated by long-dead artists. They can never be replaced. But other buildings were dismal tenements in areas of close-packed slums. The fine, modern apartment houses that are now going up where these tenements once stood are providing new and healthier homes for thousands of families.

In spite of this, more than fifty thousand people in the city of Rome alone still live in miserable shacks. Some even live in caves, or in the poor shelter of an abandoned soccer stadium. Italy hopes some day to provide decent living space for all her people.

Few Italian houses, new or old, have wooden floors or walls or shingled roofs. Wood has been scarce in Italy for centuries. Most roofs and floors are made of tile. Stone or concrete, coated with plaster and painted, is usually used for a building's walls.

There are balconies at the upper windows of most Italian houses. The brightly painted ones on some of the new apartment houses make the buildings look like huge, upright checkerboards of white and pink or blue. The balconies of seaside villas are often festooned with red and orange Bougainvillaea vines. Even the balconies of city tenements may be decorated, if only with a few spindly green plants in tin cans.

For most of the year, especially in the south and along the coast of the warm Mediterranean, families eat and talk and sometimes work on these open-air extensions to their homes.

Community well in a mountain village →

Piazzas

The heart of every neighborhood, city or country, is the piazza, or open square. There is at least one piazza in almost every town and village, and in most big cities there are several.

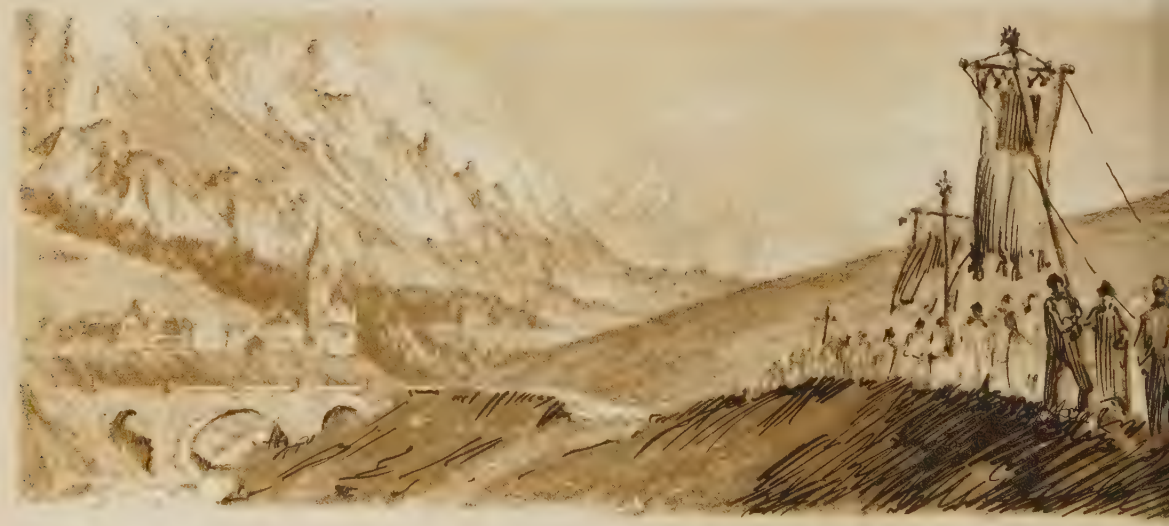
Some piazzas are huge, surrounded by handsome palaces and government buildings, or by fashionable shops and hotels. There may be a great church on one side, a glittering movie house on the other. Several wide avenues may lead out of a big piazza, as if the square were the hub of a big wheel. Other piazzas are no more than a few yards of cobblestones — a wide place in a narrow road, with a well at the center to supply water for a whole mountain village.

Every piazza, large or small, is a meeting place for the people who live and work around it. Boys and girls gather there to play. Men sit at little tables in sidewalk *caffés* to discuss business and politics over tiny cups of black coffee or glasses of wine. Housewives doing their daily marketing cross and recross the piazza a dozen times a day. They usually carry baskets or market bags

because paper bags for wrapping are very scarce in Italy. Italy's first supermarket opened not long ago, but few Italian women are eager to have a supermarket in their own town. They like to go from baker to butcher to grocer to vegetable stand, stopping on the way to learn the news of the neighborhood.

Some piazzas are market places on certain days of the week, or at certain hours of the day. Then, at stalls shaded by awnings or big umbrellas, the townspeople buy pots and pans, plastic gadgets, and the cheeses, fruits, and vegetables from nearby farms.

On festival days a long procession often winds through the piazza, led by black-robed priests. Several men carry the statue of a saint high on their shoulders. In the evening a band plays, or a strolling musician strums his guitar. The piazza is lighted by strings of colored lights. Sausages sizzle on the sausage vendor's cart. Every *caffé* around the square is crowded with family parties eating ice cream while they eagerly watch the evening's television program.



Having Fun Italian Style

Soccer is the most important sport in Italy. During the major league soccer season, from September through May, thousands of excited soccer fans jam stadiums all over the country to watch the important matches. Most big cities and towns have one or more teams in the league. And Italian boys play sandlot soccer, just as American boys play sandlot baseball.

In the city of Florence, during the May and June festivals, men in the costumes of four hundred years ago play a kind of football that was popular in Italy then. The people who watch the game, and the colorful procession before it, feel as though they were looking at an old, old painting come to life.

Religious procession

Italians also love races of all kinds. One of the most thrilling and dangerous auto races in the world takes place in Italy every year. Sports and touring car drivers from many lands compete over a thousand-mile course that begins at Brescia, in northern Italy, goes south to Rome, and back to Brescia.

Milan is the starting point for another auto race, this one for specially-made racing cars. Sports announcers report the progress of these grueling contests every mile of the way. All along the routes people gather to watch the racers pass.

Milan is also the starting point for a famous bicycle race called the Tour of Italy. This race is for professionals only. Amateurs can compete in a race called the Golden Wheel, held every July in the nearby town of Bergamo. Many Italian boys begin to practise racing as soon as they own or can borrow a bicycle, hoping that some day they will be able to enter the Golden Wheel.

The most famous of the many Italian horse races is more of a festival than a contest. It has taken place for centuries in July and again in August in the ancient walled city of Siena. It is called the *Palio,* which means "banner," from the banner awarded the winning horse.

Each of the city's seventeen districts enters a horse in one of the two races and takes part in the colorful parades that are held before the races begin. The horsemen in the parade wear fifteenth-century armor. The footmen and pages wear rich-colored costumes designed hundreds of years ago. Skilled flag twirlers toss heavy flagstaffs high in the air. The prize, a silk banner bearing a picture of Siena's patron saint, is borne around the piazza on a wagon drawn by four white oxen. Riders in the race wear brilliant costumes. They carry whips to use against other riders and their mounts. There is no sportsmanship in this race. It is a fight to the

Palio parade, Siena

finish. The winning horse is the one that crosses the finish line first, even if his rider has been thrown off minutes earlier.

Water sports are popular, too — sailboat and motorboat racing, swimming, fishing, skindiving, and waterskiing. Thousands of Italian families head for the seashore every holiday and weekend. Italian beaches are often crowded, but most Italians don't seem to mind. In their crowded land they are used to doing things in groups, and most Italians like that better than doing things alone.

Christmas Cribs and Easter Shrines

Italian families don't trim trees for Christmas. Instead, they set up Christmas cribs, or Nativity scenes — little figures of Mary and the infant Jesus, surrounded by figures of Joseph and the shepherds and kneeling animals. These cribs are usually not more than a foot long, and the figures are as small as a child's finger. In churches and other public places there are larger Nativity scenes, some even life size and very elaborate.

Almost all Italians attend a midnight mass on Christmas Eve, but they like to spend Christmas day visiting and welcoming guests. The little Nativity scene is always the center of attraction.

The day for giving presents is Epiphany, the Twelfth Day after Christmas.

Some of the gayest Italian holidays take place during carnival time, six weeks before Easter. Then parades of flower-decked floats, bearing figures in brilliant costumes and grinning masks, move through the streets between shouting crowds. Most Italians say that the carnival parades in the resort town of Viareggio, on the coast south of Genoa, are the best of all. People were especially delighted one year by a float showing scenes from the American Wild West.

In San Remo, on the Italian Riviera, children pelt the figures on the floats with thousands of flowers. In Florence, at carnival time, they hunt for crickets in the park, put them in wire or reed cages, and carry them about the city.

At the end of Lent everybody rejoices again, but in a more sober way. Easter has come — the most important religious holiday in Italy. All during Holy Week families make pilgrimages to their own churches, and to certain churches built as shrines to Catholic

saints. Those who can afford it often go to Rome to climb on their knees up the *Scala Santa,* or sacred stairs. This is a flight of twenty-eight steps which legend says was climbed by Jesus Christ on his way to be judged by Pontius Pilate. These steps were brought to Italy in the thirteenth century by Italians who had taken part in the Crusades.

All the thousands of faithful Catholics who come to Rome during Holy Week hope to receive the special Easter blessing of His Holiness, the Pope.

Christmas crib

Music Talk

There is music everywhere in Italy. Even the language sounds like music. An old man sings to himself as he rides along a dusty road in his donkey cart. A young man whizzing past on a bicycle picks up the tune. A strolling musician wanders into a restaurant, and guests and waiters join him in their favorite songs. Music is also popular television fare.

When Italians talk about their favorite musicians they get as excited as when they talk about politics or their favorite soccer teams. When Italian musicians, such as Arturo Toscanini and Enrico Caruso, become world-famous, the news makes headlines in Italy.

Much of the language of American and European music is Italian. The word *solo*, for example, is the Italian word for "alone." *Largo* and *allegro*, music words meaning slow and fast, mean just that in everyday Italian speech. *Presto*, which means "quick" to musicians, is the word Italians use when they want someone to hurry. *Forte* and *fortissimo* are Italian for "loud" and "very loud." *Pianissimo* is Italian for "very soft."

The names of many instruments are Italian — violin, for example, cello, and piano. And the word opera comes from an Italian word meaning "work." It was first used in connection with music back in the sixteenth century, when Italy was developing the singing drama we call an opera.

Italians have given the world some of its most beautiful music — the church music of Palestrina, the great operas of Verdi and Puccini. One of the greatest of modern composers is the Italian Respighi, who composed "The Fountains of Rome" and "The Pines of Rome."

Whenever something important happens in Italy, somebody is almost sure to sing about it. When a funicular railway was built up the side of Mount Vesuvius, Italians began to sing a song that soon became famous — "Funiculi, Funiculà."

Most Italians know dozens of popular tunes and they often know the words and music of their favorite operas by heart. They know when a singer makes the tiniest mistake. Once an Italian audience booed the great Caruso off the stage just because he failed on a high note!

Angel with a lute, from a painting by **Vittore Carpaccio** (1460-1525)

Going to School in Italy

On certain days of the school year, in Bologna, Rome, and certain other Italian cities, the streets are filled with young men wearing brightly colored felt hats, usually decorated with little charms and dangling figures. The brims turn up on the sides and stick straight out in front like huge visors a foot long. The students sing and dance through the streets to the music of guitars. The city is theirs for a day and other people watch them, smiling, and keep out of their way.

These students are celebrating school holidays as old as the universities they attend — and Italian universities are among the oldest in the world. The university of Bologna, Italy's oldest, was founded in 1088. The University of Rome, Italy's largest, was started in 1303.

Except on holidays, Italian students are usually very serious. Italians respect education and honor the title of professor. Thousands of boys and girls, from the time they start school at the age of six, look forward to attending one of Italy's many universities.

Italian children in the lower grades study the same things American children do. At some schools they must wear special clothes — usually colored smocks with white collars and bow ties. But in other schools they dress just like boys and girls in America.

When they are about eleven years old, students leave elementary school to enter a secondary school, which is something like an American junior high school. Or, if they prefer, they can go to a technical secondary school, where they begin to learn a trade.

Students usually finish the secondary school when they are fourteen. Then, unless they leave school to go to work, they go on to a higher secondary school, much like an American senior high

school. Those who intend to go to a university choose a school which will prepare them for the entrance examinations. Others choose advanced technical schools.

There were not enough schools in Italy even before the war, and many schools were destroyed in the fighting. But the government is trying hard to supply the need for new ones. Even so, many schools are so crowded that some children must attend classes in the morning, while others go to school in the afternoon.

Elections Are Exciting

Italy has a democratic form of government, and for several weeks before a national election the whole country is excited. Big, dramatic posters blaze from thousands of walls, showing the pictures and slogans of the candidates for office. Their supporters hold noisy rallies. Sound trucks, blaring music and speeches, move from town to town drawing crowds in every piazza.

The voters elect the members of Italy's two houses of Parliament. One of these is a Senate, similar to the United States Senate. The other is a Chamber of Deputies, rather like the United States House of Representatives. The members of these two houses choose the man who will be President for the next seven years. He will be head of Italy's three branches of government — executive, legislative, and judicial.

Parliament must also approve the President's choice of Prime Minister — a post even more powerful than that of President — and the sixteen ministers in the President's Cabinet. This system guarantees that Italy's two most important figures always have the support of a majority of her lawmakers — the men and women who have been directly chosen by all the people of the land.

Until 1946 the people of Italy had no say at all in the choice of

their rulers. For about seventy-five years they had been ruled by kings who inherited their thrones. The kings tried to choose prime ministers whom the people liked, but this system did not always work out successfully. In fact, it recently led to tragedy for Italy.

Shortly after World War I, when many Italians were poor and out of work, a vigorous man named Benito Mussolini gained great popularity among Italians by promising them a better life. They called him *Il Duce,* which means "the leader." His followers, who were called *Fascists,* wanted him to become the absolute ruler, or dictator, of the whole country. Thousands of them, all wearing black shirts as a kind of uniform, marched on Rome behind their hero and demanded that the king make him Prime Minister. The king was forced to agree.

At first Mussolini did many fine things for Italy. He built roads, drained marshes and put many people to work. But he would allow nobody, not even the King himself, to disagree with him. Those who talked or acted against Mussolini were thrown into jail, or exiled. When Mussolini joined forces with Adolf Hitler, dictator of Germany, he led Italy into World War II as Germany's partner.

When the Allies defeated Italy in the war, the Italians hunted down the dictator who had taken away their freedom. They caught him just as he was trying to escape across the border, and killed him.

Then the Italian soldiers fought alongside the Allies until the German army was driven out of Italy and Germany was defeated. After that they held a general election to see what kind of government they wanted in the future. The King accepted their decision to form a democracy, and gave up his throne.

Today Italy is divided into nineteen regions, or states, and each

region is divided into smaller sections called provinces. Provinces are made up of towns or townships, which Italians call communes. The officials who run the governments of these regions, provinces, and communes are chosen by popular vote. The elections for these officials are full of excitement, too. During the long years when they had no freedom at all, Italians learned to appreciate their freedom to vote, and to say and print what they liked.

All Roads Lead to Rome

Rome, biggest city of Italy, is the nation's capital, the seat of her government. It is also the capital of learning for all students of the Western world's history, art, and architecture. And it is the religious capital of the world for Roman Catholics everywhere.

Twenty-four hours a day buses, trucks, cars, and other vehicles arrive in the city over the network of highways that center on Rome. Rome's railroad stations form a hub for the many railroads that terminate there. Long passenger trains arrive every hour. Freight trains rumble in one after the other, bringing all sorts of manufactured goods, farm products, and goods delivered to Italy from distant lands. Rome's airports hum constantly with the arrival of planes from every corner of the globe.

About two million people live in Rome, but few among them can claim that their families have lived there for generations — that they are what Italians call "real Romans". Thousands have come to the city for the same reason that Americans move to Washington, D.C. — to work in government agencies and offices. Thousands more have come for the same reason many Americans go to New York — to seek fame and fortune in the biggest city in the land.

People from the north of Italy bring to Rome their bustling

energy and impatience. Those from the south bring their more leisurely ways and their habit of resting when the sun is hottest. Perhaps this explains what happens in Rome at noon every working day.

Then, suddenly, thousands of men and women pour onto the streets. They crowd into trolleys, jam through the narrow rear doors of Italy's bright green buses. They pile into automobiles, leap onto motorcycles and scooters that dart between and through the lines of larger vehicles. Even Rome's most experienced policemen, waving white-gloved hands at every corner, can't prevent the snarls of traffic that occur.

At the end of half an hour or less the hurrying thousands have almost completely disappeared — some into restaurants, others into coffee stands for a quick cup of coffee before they dash home for lunch with their families. All of these people will probably work until seven in the evening, or even later, when they return to their jobs. But they will not return for about three hours. And during that time Rome seems half asleep.

Most of the people on the streets of Rome between noon and three o'clock are not Italians. They are Germans, Swiss, French, Chinese, English, Indians, Americans — people from all over the world. Along with visitors from other parts of Italy, they make up Rome's second population — the sightseeing strangers that fill Rome's hundreds of hotels, rooming houses, and youth hostels all the year around.

Among them are priests in their long black cassocks, English and American ecclesiastical students in black, those from Scotland in violet, Germans in brilliant red. All are visiting Rome as pilgrims to the Eternal City, home of their church.

It is said that visitors who toss a coin into the ancient **Trevi Fountain** will be sure to return to Rome

Students, traveling with their own teachers, or with guides, come to Rome as part of their education. Some of them stay to study in one of the art institutes established in Rome by and for American, British, and other foreign students.

And then there are the people who come to Rome for no reason but to gaze in wonder at the city that long ago set a pattern of civilization for all the Western World.

Looking after the city's visitors is Rome's second biggest business after government. Thousands of Italians work in restaurants, hotels, and shops that cater to the tourist trade. And hundreds of Italians work as guides to the wonders of Rome.

Roman gladiators fought wild beasts in the great **Colosseum**, built about 80 AD

Most of these guides are professionals whose chief interest is in earning a living. But some are highly trained scholars who have dedicated their lives to studying Rome's past. There are amateur guides, too. Some of them are young boys, no more than twelve or fourteen years old. To many of them the names of ancient Roman emperors are as familiar as the names of their favorite soccer stars. Their city is familiar to them, too, with all its many piazzas, its curved and winding streets that so often change their names several times in the course of a few blocks.

Some of Rome's streets are wide boulevards lined with elegant shops and luxury hotels. Others are twisting alleyways so narrow that when a motor scooter passes, pedestrians have to flatten themselves against the wall. The grandest boulevard may suddenly narrow into one of these alleyways. The meanest alley, lined with grimy garages and secondhand furniture stores, may turn a corner into a handsome piazza framing a magnificent palace. And through this jumbled maze the Tiber River winds its way, twisting back and forth like a long, greenish-brown snake.

The Tiber, which Romans call the *Tevere*, more or less cuts modern Rome in two. On its eastern bank are the low hills — the Seven Hills of Rome — on which the ancient Romans built their city. Most of modern Rome's government buildings, foreign embassies, business offices, expensive hotels, shops, theaters, and restaurants are in this part of the city.

A high wall, made of the red bricks the ancient Romans used so often, runs around the Seven Hills. The wall was built in the

year 275 by a Roman emperor who feared invaders from the north. It curved away from the river and back again to enclose the whole city of that time. Now Rome has spread far beyond the ancient wall, but all streets running out from the center of the city have to cross a bridge or go through the wall's big, turreted gates.

The flat area on the other side of the river is called the *Trastevere*, or "across the Tiber." It was settled in the fifth century by ragged refugees fleeing the northern barbarians who were invading once powerful Rome. On this dismal, marshy spot descendants of the refugees lived for hundreds of years in miserable poverty. Meanwhile, foreign kings fought each other on Italian soil and divided the peninsula among themselves. During this period, called the Middle Ages, the glories of Rome were forgotten, and herds of goats wandered among the crumbling marble buildings on the Seven Hills.

Then, during the fifteenth century, the popes of the Roman Catholic Church began to grow strong and rich. Soon they became rulers of a big kingdom called the Papal State, which covered all of central Italy. To make Rome a fitting capital for this kingdom, the popes and their wealthy friends began to rebuild it. New churches and palaces rose up, some of them made with marble taken from ancient Roman temples and colosseums. New bridges joined the two halves of the city. Slowly Rome grew strong again.

In 1870, the Sardinian king, Victor Emmanuel II, conquered and united all the separate regions of Italy. He took over Rome from the popes and made it the capital of Italy again. Since then the city has grown until it spreads out in all directions.

Romans are proud to be able to say that they live in a modern apartment, but they are just as proud to say that they live in part

The **Roman Forum** is 2000 years old

of what was once a famous old palace, or that one wall of their house was standing in the time of Julius Caesar. The people of *Trastevere* are especially proud of the ancient, winding alleys of their part of the city. *Trastevere,* they say, may be younger than the other half of Rome, but it was never abandoned to an enemy. It has been held by its inhabitants for nearly 1,500 years. Here it is that a man is most often heard to declare, "I am a real Roman."

The Vatican

The Vatican State, smallest independent country in the world, is a tiny walled city inside the big city of Rome on the Trastevere side of the river. It covers just 108 acres. Its ruler is the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

When Victor Emmanuel II made Rome the capital of his new Italian kingdom, the defeated pope shut himself inside the Vatican, declaring to the world that he was a prisoner of the Italian king. For almost sixty years no pope ever left the Vatican.

Then, in 1929, the pope and the king of Italy signed an agreement called the Lateran Treaty. It made the Vatican a separate state and the pope its absolute monarch. By this treaty the pope agreed that as ruler of his tiny Papal State, he would never try to increase its boundaries beyond the Vatican walls.

The Vatican today has about a thousand citizens. Some are

Catholic priests and other church officials. Some look after the Vatican's remarkable library, the oldest in all Europe. Some guard and care for the collections in the Vatican's wonderful museums. Others are storekeepers, engineers, repairmen, gardeners, clerks, cooks, and cleaners, with their wives and children.

The people in this tiny country operate their own radio station, a gift of the Italian radio pioneer, Marconi. They publish their own newspaper, make their own money, and have their own post-office. At their big general store they can buy produce from the farm of Castle Gandolfo, the pope's summer palace outside Rome. The palace, and several buildings in Rome which are used for church affairs, are also part of the pope's monarchy.

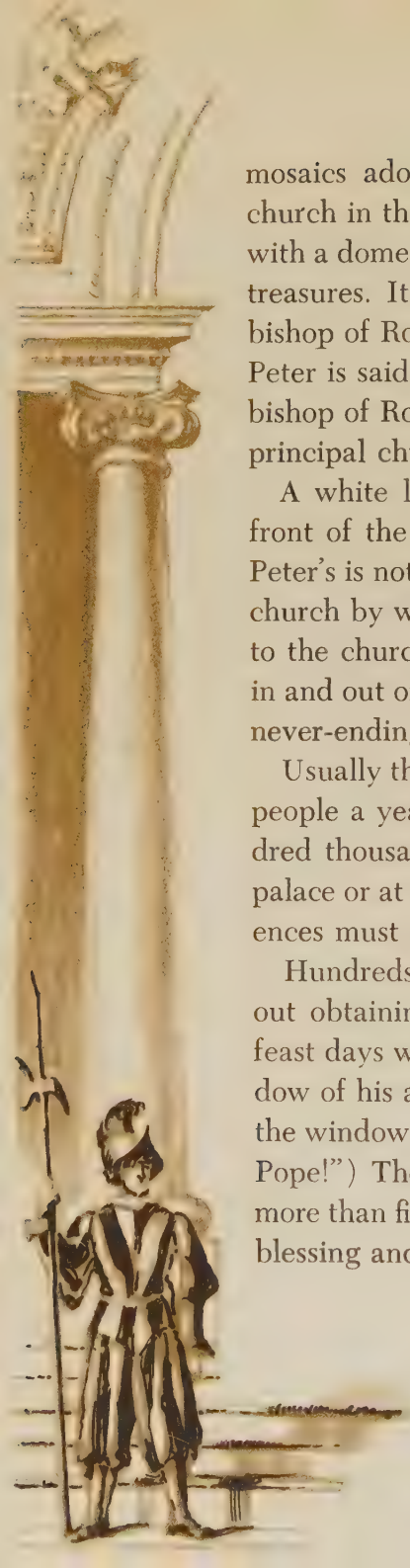
Vatican cars have their own license plates. The plate numbered 1 is on the big, black glass-roofed car that the pope uses — a car that has only one seat in the back, set in the center of the car like a throne.

Vatican City has its own telephone exchange, too. Its letters are VC. The number of the gold telephone on the pope's desk is VC-101.

The Vatican's present-day army, numbering just 137 men, is made up of strong young Catholics from Switzerland. It is called the Swiss Guard. The brilliant red, yellow, and blue uniforms the Guards wear were designed by Michelangelo, one of Italy's most famous artists, more than four hundred years ago.

The pope lives very simply. His rooms are on the top floor of his handsome palace. They used to be servants' quarters. But as ruler of the Vatican and head of the Roman Catholic Church, he owns some of the most valuable treasures in the world — paintings, great works of sculpture, rare books, and priceless jewels.

Some of the Vatican's most remarkable paintings, statues, and



mosaics adorn the largest and probably the most magnificent church in the world — St. Peter's Church. But this huge building, with a dome that rises 404 feet into the air, has still other valuable treasures. It contains the relics of the martyred St. Peter, first bishop of Rome. And the church is built over the place where St. Peter is said to have been buried. Only the pope, who is also the bishop of Rome, may say mass at the high altar of St. Peter's, the principal church of Christianity.

A white line painted on the paving of St. Peter's Square, in front of the church, is part of the boundary of the Vatican. St. Peter's is not within the Vatican's high walls. People can enter the church by walking across the vast square and up the broad steps to the church doors. Sometimes there are so many people going in and out of the church all day long that they look like one huge, never-ending parade.

Usually the pope receives between five hundred and a thousand people a year in private audiences. But he sees about nine hundred thousand a year in public audiences, either in his Vatican palace or at Castle Gandolfo. Those who attend these public audiences must get special permission from Vatican authorities.

Hundreds of thousands of people see the pope every year without obtaining permission. They gather in St. Peter's Square on feast days when they know the pope will appear at the open window of his attic room, overlooking the piazza. When he comes to the window a great shout goes up, *"Viva il Papa!"* ("Long live the Pope!") Then a hushed silence falls as the leader of the world's more than five hundred million Roman Catholics raises his hand in blessing and makes the sign of the cross.

Swiss guard

The Dome of St. Peter's in Rome

Florence, a Living Museum

The two halves of the city of Florence, built on either side of the Arno River, are held together by bridges. All but one of these bridges were blown up during World War II by Germany's retreating armies. The one left standing, the famous, shop-lined Ponte Vecchio, or Old Bridge, was made impassable with piles of rubble at either end.

The Allied armies following the Germans soon cleared away the rubble blocking the Ponte Vecchio and built temporary bridges. But to unite the two halves of the city again was not enough for the Florentines. Their handsome bridges had always been more than roadways across the river. They were cherished stone monuments of the Renaissance, when Florence was one of the richest and probably the most beautiful city in all of Europe.

When the Florentines were ready to replace the Holy Trinity Bridge they waited until they had collected a large sum of money in Italian lire and American dollars. Then they settled down to the

The **Ponte Vecchio**

The city of **Florence**

Italy's famous **Leaning Tower of Pisa** is the bell tower of the 900-year-old cathedral at Pisa. While it was being built, the ground shifted and the tower tilted to one side

long and difficult task of putting the old bridge together, stone by stone, so that it would look just as it had looked in the past.

First they rescued all the ancient masonry that had fallen into the Arno. When they found that some of the stones were hopelessly crumbled, they searched old records until they found where the original builders had obtained their stone four centuries ago. Then they opened the long-abandoned quarry to get the matching stone they needed. It took thirteen years to restore the bridge, but to the Florentines the labor was worthwhile.

There are two reasons why the Florentines try to keep their city looking much as it looked in the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. One is their love and admiration of its ancient black and white churches, its stone palaces, its arched bridges, and tall towers. The other reason is the profitable stream of visitors that flows into Florence every year. Florence is a prosperous city today largely because it is a place where people can see the things men created, and the way men lived, during the wonderful period called the Renaissance.

The **Piazza S. Maria Novella,** in Florence

Bambino (baby) by
Andrea Della Robbia

The Renaissance

When the Roman Empire collapsed in the fifth century, most of its wealthy men, scholars, and skilled workmen fled to Constantinople, now called Istanbul. For centuries in Rome industry and learning were forgotten. All over Italy, during those years, men lived in bitter poverty, tilling the land of a nobleman, a pope, or a king, fighting his battles when he went to war.

In 742, a great Christian king, Charlemagne, or Charles the Great, was born in what is now France. He ruled over many feudal lords in western Europe, and soon gained new power by subduing neighboring people, including the Lombards in northern Italy. Charlemagne dreamed of restoring the shattered Roman Empire and the pope of that day, Leo III, encouraged him. Charlemagne drove his army south to Rome and there, on Christmas Day, in the year 800, Leo III crowned him emperor of a new Holy Roman Empire.

But after Charlemagne's death, kings from all over Europe fought to win his crown. Once more Italy was a battlefield and the people continued to live in misery.

In 1198 Frederick II, or Frederick the Great, inherited the throne of the Holy Roman Empire. Frederick II was a remarkable man. He held court on the island of Sicily, which had been ruled by the Arabs for a time. There he gathered together many Arab, Jewish, and Christian scholars, and urged them to spread their learning among all his people. He founded a university, a medical school, and a zoo. He collected books and wrote poetry himself.

Frederick quarreled with the popes of his day, and they finally destroyed his power. But the popes couldn't control all of Italy. Nobody, it seemed, could do that any more. Something had happened. The scholars of Frederick's court had spread knowledge of the long-forgotten days of Italy's past when Greek and Roman citizens lived in freedom and dignity. The Italian people had begun to want that kind of life for themselves. They were willing to work, but they wanted to keep the profits of their labor.

These new-thinking Italians created a whole new class, a middle class, between noblemen and peasants. Afraid of neither popes nor kings, this middle class set up its own government in Florence, Milan, Genoa, Naples, Venice, and a few other cities. Industry and trade began to flourish. Italian ships were soon trading with every port from Jerusalem to Antwerp. All the trade between Europe and the Orient passed through Italian hands.

By the fourteenth century some of the new Italian city states, as they were called, had become enormously rich. Some even won overseas colonies. But the people spent their money for comfort, too, and they spent a great deal of it on beautiful things.

They bought Oriental silks and jewels, sent experts to Rome and other ancient capitals to bring back old Roman and Greek books and statues. In Rome they began to dig away the debris of centuries and to unearth the things Rome had created in her days of

greatness. They hired skilled workmen to build magnificent palaces and churches, and to decorate them with paintings and stone carvings. They encouraged talented young people to study with the great artists who were learning long-forgotten skills and experimenting with new ones. Some of these great artists still stand among the most famous the world has ever produced.

Eventually most of the great city states lost their power and much of their wealth, but the world has never lost what they gave to it. They brought about in Italy a rebirth of arts and learning almost unknown in Europe for many centuries. And from Italy that rebirth of knowledge — or Renaissance — spread to all men in every part of the known world. The Renaissance was a foundation of culture upon which the Western world has built ever since.

Head of the statue of **Bartolommeo Colleoni,** famous Venetian soldier, by **Andrea del Verocchio** (1453-1488)

The **Medici** were a rich and powerful family who ruled Florence from 1434 to 1737. They built palaces and churches. Their wonderful collection of paintings and sculpture formed the basis of the modern Uffizi and Pitti collections

Michelangelo's statue of **Lorenzo de' Medici.** Lorenzo, with his brother **Giuliano,** ruled Florence in 1513

Head of a statue of **Giuliano de' Medici** by **Andrea del Verocchio**

Cosimo de' Medici, leading citizen of Florence in the fourteenth Century

Raphael Santi (1483-1520) is famous for the fifty Madonnas he painted during his thirty-seven years of life, and for his other portraits. He painted a number of rooms in the pope's palace, and was in charge of the restoration of ancient Rome.

←

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was born in the small town of Vinci, near Florence. Among his most famous paintings are the "The Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper." He was also famous as a scientist and inventor. He designed portable bridges, the world's first machine gun, and drew plans for an airplane and a parachute

→

Titian Vecelli (1477-1576) was brought to Venice from his Alpine home when he was ten years old to be trained in the artists' studios that served as art schools during the Renaissance. He painted so many pictures of beautiful red-haired women that hair of that color has been called "titian" ever since. He died at the age of ninety-nine, one of the last and greatest of the Renaissance artists

←

Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564) was architect, painter, and sculptor. One of his most famous statues is the towering figure of David, now in Florence. When he was an old man he decorated the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. He worked on it for four years, most of the time lying on his back on a high scaffold

→

enice, a City Built on Water

There are no streets in Venice. Instead, there are canals, or waterways, flowing around the 118 small islands on which the city is built. Some of the canals are as wide as a small river. The largest of all, the Grand Canal, is the city's Main Street. All of the canals, large or small, are crowded day and night with many different kinds of boats.

St. Mark's Cathedral, Venice. The tall building is the bell tower

Scows, piled high with vegetables, fish, meat, and other goods, are rowed through the water every morning to the city's markets. Sleek launches are the city's taxis and family cars. Larger power boats called *vaporettos*, that look like small ferries, take the place of buses. Some of them bring the city's many visitors from the huge railroad terminal and parking garage at the end of the causeway that now connects Venice with the mainland. Venetian firemen ride in fire boats. Policemen cruise about in police boats to make sure that power craft observe the speed limit and that all boatmen obey the traffic light signal posted at the crossing of two important canals.

But the most famous boats of Venice are her gondolas, which look like slender black canoes with high, curving ends. One man, the gondolier, usually stands in the stern and rows the boat with a single oar. But some gondolas are rowed by two men, and the largest need even more rowers.

Many houses and shops at the edge of a canal have flights of steps leading down to the water, with mooring poles at the foot of them, usually brightly painted.

The only Venetians who seldom use boats for their work are the "street" repair gangs. They dam up part of a canal and pump all

Rialto Bridge, Venice

A secret door in the palace of the chief magistrate of Venice leads to the **Bridge of Sighs,** across which prisoners were led to the terrible dungeons of the prison on the other side of the canal

the water out of the blocked-off section before they can start a job. Then, wading around on the muddy bottom, they replace rotted mooring poles, repair pipes and drains, and cart away silt in order to deepen the channel. Afterward they fill the canal again and it is once more open to traffic.

Venice was settled 1,500 years ago by Italians fleeing from the savage tribes sweeping down into Italy from the north. Since the invaders had no boats, the refugees knew they would be safe on the islands that lie about two miles off the mainland at the head of the Adriatic Sea.

The **Cathedral of Maria della Salude,** Venice

Quite naturally, the Venetians turned to sea trade, and in time they became the wealthy and powerful leaders of Mediterranean commerce. By the time of the Italian Renaissance, visitors were coming from all over the world to admire the magnificent Venetian palaces and churches which seem to rise magically out of the sea.

Venice is an important port, even now, but today her many visitors are a bigger source of income than her trade.

Milan, Genoa, and Naples

The streets of Milan radiate out from the center of the city, and near the center is the Gallery — a shop-lined street entirely covered by a glass roof. At sidewalk tables on this street, protected from the chill rains of their northern climate, Milanese gather to drink coffee and talk.

Their talk is often about music, for the Milanese think that the performances at their La Scala Opera House are the best in the world — far better, they insist, than those in the equally famous opera houses in Rome and Naples. But just as often, the talk is about business, too. Milan is the industrial and commercial center of Italy. Her factories manufacture everything from stained glass and flower-patterned silk to automobiles and locomotives.

The wealthy Lombardy region around Milan, so close to the rest of Europe, has been a prize for greedy conquerors for hundreds of years. Romans, Gauls, Spaniards, and Austrians all seized it in turn. When Napoleon took Milan he had himself crowned in its great Cathedral, the third largest church in the world. The Allied armies bombed the city heavily during World War II. After so many centuries of destruction Milan has few ancient buildings left. She has a newer, more modern look than most Italian cities. And she has been growing so fast that her population is now second to that of Rome.

Genoa, crowded in at the foot of curving hills around a wide bay, is the biggest, busiest port in Italy. Her well-equipped wharves, many of them rebuilt after the bombing raids of World War II, are always piled high with Italian goods awaiting shipment overseas, and with goods that have just arrived from other

Christopher Columbus was born in this tiny house on the Piazza Dante, Genoa

lands. Flags of all nations fly from the ships in her harbor. Sailors from many countries explore its broad avenues of modern office buildings and apartment houses, its narrow streets that sometimes turn into stairs as they climb the steeper hills.

The factories of Genoa make a number of things, but the Genoese are especially proud of the ships they build. Many of the big marble villas, set among lovely gardens in the hills, belong to wealthy shipbuilders, or to men who own the fleets of merchant ships sailing out of Genoa. The city's best-loved heroes are sailors. One of them was Admiral Andrea Doria, who set sail in the sixteenth century to defeat Barbarossa, the red-bearded pirate then raiding Genoa's rich trading ships from his lair on Africa's Barbary Coast. Another hero of Genoa is, of course, Christopher Columbus. His statue stands near the harbor he knew as a boy.

From the sea, the crescent-shaped city of Naples looks like a city of marble palaces set on a curved hillside above the blue Mediterranean. Above it rises the towering cone of Mount Vesuvius. But the people of Naples are on the whole poorer than those in Italy's other big cities. And in spite of the many apartment houses built since World War II, many Neapolitans live in miserably crowded old tenements.

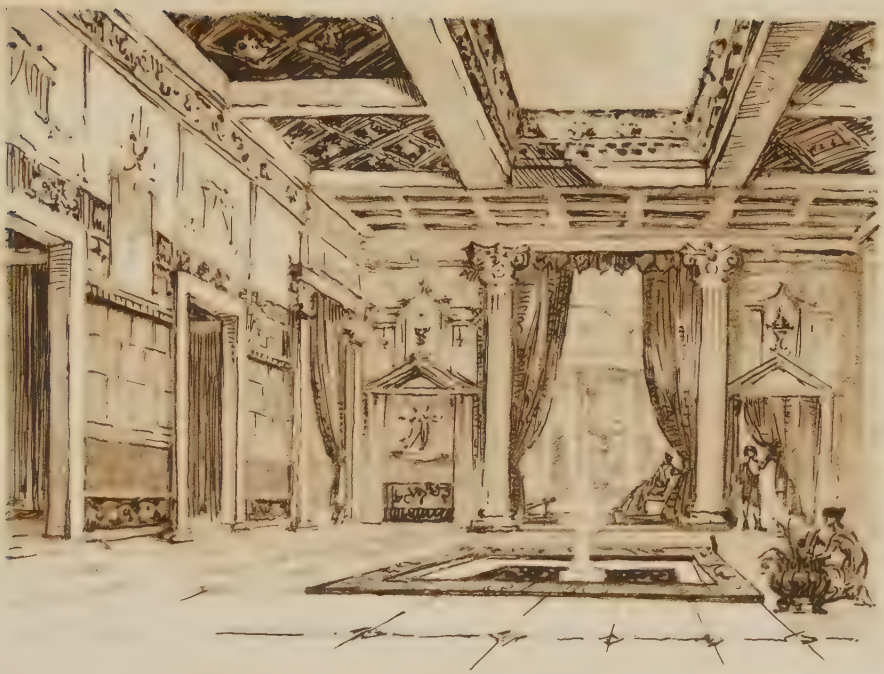
In the poorer districts streets are very narrow. Sidewalks may be only a foot or two wide. Shops spill their wares onto the paving among the hawkers' stands set up there. Pedestrians strolling in the streets have to move out of the way if a car or motor scooter tries to squeeze its way through. In summer the air is thick with the smell of overripe fruit, cooking fish, ancient buildings, and the strong perfume Neapolitans like to wear.

Some of the spicy smells in Naples come from the restaurants which serve pizza — the same round pie, filled with cheese, sausage, spices and other things, which has become so popular in the United States. The wheat dough called pasta, which is the basis of pizza, is also used to make spaghetti, macaroni, lasagna, ravioli and other Italian dishes. Pizza is not seen very often in many parts of Italy, but it is a specialty in Naples.

Other Italians say that the Neapolitans are noisy and overdramatic — that they talk and laugh too much, sing too often, play their radios too loudly, and wave their hands and arms around for no reason at all. Neapolitans say they behave this way because they know how to enjoy themselves even though they have very little money. Although there are factories in and around Naples, and her port is always busy, she cannot provide work for all her teeming population.

Buried Treasure

The people of Resina, a suburb of Naples, live on the top of buried treasure. Some day they will have to move so that the treasure can be uncovered. Buried under Resina lie the houses and shops, many of the temples and luxurious public baths of an ancient Roman city called Herculaneum.



The **House of Sallust** in Pompeii, as it probably looked before it was destroyed during an eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

In the year 79 Mount Vesuvius erupted. Clouds of choking hot ashes fell on Pompeii. Rivers of molten lava poured down on Herculaneum. The two cities were buried, and many of their people with them.

Today most of Pompeii and part of Herculaneum have been uncovered. The Italian government supervises the excavations, but archaeologists from all over the world have helped at the great task. It will not be finished for many years to come.

Modern young people, wandering among the ruins, are often surprised to discover that in many ways the ancient Romans lived

lives very much like their own. They enjoyed the sun and the sea, and they liked to sit together over a glass of wine. The lines and crosses scratched on plaster-walled houses show that Pompeiian children even played a game very much like modern tic-tac-toe. Grownups met in squares like today's Italian piazzas.

A boy can look at ancient fish hooks very much like the ones he uses now. He can study the tools of ancient metal workers, carpenters, doctors, and dentists. He will see a little mirror on the end of a stick, exactly like the tiny, handled mirror in the office of his own dentist!

Girls can see rooms furnished with carved wooden cupboards, chests, and tables, very much like those at home. They can see how the Romans decorated their walls with paintings, and paved their floors with marble tiles, just as Italians do today. In neat kitchens they can see all sorts of cooking pots, jars of wine and beans, and even a loaf of bread left to burn in the oven by one frightened, fleeing housewife.

Three Islands: Sicily, Sardinia, Capri

Sicily is about the size of Massachusetts and has about the same number of people. Most of them live in towns along the coast, at the foot of the mountains that cover almost the whole island. The towering volcanic peak of Mount Etna, often belching smoke and ashes, is the island's highest point.

There are some valuable sulphur mines in Sicily, and the warm climate is good for citrus fruits, almond trees, olives, grapes, and wheat. But the island has very little fertile land, and almost no factories. It has shared the poverty of the rest of southern Italy for many years.

Sicilian fishermen

Palermo is Sicily's capital, its most important city, and its seaport. The curved and pointed arches seen here and there, the mosaics rich with gold, remind the people of modern Palermo how splendid their city was during the time when the Arabs ruled it. But Palermo is still thriving, while some of the other once-rich cities of Sicily have lost almost all their ancient wealth.

Syracuse, for example, on the island's southern coast, was an important center of the Greek empire, one of the richest and most powerful cities in all Europe. Today it is a small town, famous chiefly for its ruins.

Agrigento, another small town today, was also a great center of Greek culture and trade 2,500 years ago. Its ancient, beautiful temples are still among the wonders of the world, but most of them are in ruins.

The island of Sardinia, off Italy's west coast and close to the French-owned island of Corsica, is smaller than Sicily, and not so crowded. From its mines Italy gets some of the minerals she needs — copper, iron, lignite, lead, zinc, silver, and salt. Most Sardinians

raise crops, harvest the bark of cork trees, or tend the flocks that roam their hilly pastures — horses, sheep, goats, and dwarf donkeys.

The tiny island of Capri, close to the port of Naples, is a popular vacation resort chiefly because of its Blue Grotto, a cave directly at the water's edge. Only a small boat can pass through the cave's narrow opening, right at water level. And the boatman must know exactly how to handle his craft to keep it from crashing against the rock. He pulls it through the entrance by tugging at a chain fastened to the rock.

The inside of the Grotto is like a tiny lake covered by a roof of arching rock. The cave itself is completely dark, but the water is a brilliant bright blue, as if there were electric lights hidden under the surface. The strange glow is really a reflection of the sunlight which strikes down into the blue sea outside the cave, then strikes upward again to illuminate the cave from below.

Gifts from Italy

It would take a long time to list all the things Italy has given us. In the time of Rome's strength, her conquering legions carried civilization to most of the known world. It was an Italian, Christopher Columbus, who widened the boundaries of that world by opening the way to the exploration and settlement of the whole new world of America. Italy's priests carried the message of Christianity all over Europe. Some of the greatest artists, poets, musicians, and scientists the world has ever known were Italians. And Italy has kept alive for us the important ideas of philosophy, art, and government which the ancient Romans inherited from the even more ancient Greeks.

Some Famous Italians

Scientists

Pliny the Elder (23-79), Roman naturalist and historian
Galileo (1564-1642), astronomer, mathematician
Evangelista Torricelli (1608-1647), physicist, inventor of barometer
Luigi Galvani (1737-1798), physician, anatomist
Alessandro Volta (1745-1827), physicist
Cesare Lombroso (1836-1909), physician and criminologist
Maria Montessori (1870-1952), doctor, anthropologist, educator
Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937), physicist, radio pioneer
Enrico Fermi (1901-1954), atomic physicist, Nobel Prize winner, 1938

Statesmen and Military Leaders

Cicero (106 B.C.-43 B.C.), Roman statesman and orator
Julius Caesar (102 B.C.?-44 B.C.), Roman conqueror and consul of Rome; established modern calendar; month of July named in his honor
Augustus Caesar (63 B.C.-14 A.D.), first emperor of Rome
Lorenzo Medici (Lorenzo the Magnificent) (1449-1492), Florentine statesman, prince and patron of the arts
Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527), Florentine statesman and political writer
Cesare Borgia (1476-1507), leader of papal armies
Giuseppe Mazzini (1805-1872), patriot and fighter for Italian freedom
Victor Emmanuel II (1820-1878), first king of united Italy
Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882), patriot and fighter for Italian unity and freedom; also fought for freedom of Uruguay
Benito Mussolini (1883-1945), Fascist leader, premier and dictator

Navigators and Explorers

Marco Polo (1254?-1324?), Venetian traveler through China
Christopher Columbus (1451?-1506), discoverer of America
Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512), navigator for whom America was named
John Cabot (Cabato) (1461?-1498), explorer of North America in pay of England
Giovanni da Verrazano (1480?-1527?), explorer of American coast in pay of French; possibly first European to enter New York harbor
Marcos de Niza (1495?-1558), Franciscan friar, explorer of American Southwest, in pay of Spain
Umberto Nobile (1885-), Arctic explorer

Writers and Philosophers

Catullus (84 B.C.?-54 B.C.?), Roman poet
Vergil (70 B.C.-19 B.C.), Roman poet
Horace (65 B.C.-8 B.C.), Roman poet
Livy (59 B.C.-17 B.C.), Roman historian
Ovid (43 B.C.-18 B.C.), Roman poet
St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), religious writer and teacher
Dante Alighieri (1265-1321), first important poet who wrote in Italian language; author of *The Divine Comedy*
Petrarch (1304-1374), poet

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375), poet and novelist
Aldus Manutius (1450-1515), writer, publisher and printer
Savonarola (1452-1498), religious reformer
Carlo Goldoni (1707-1793), playwright
Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936), playwright
Benedetto Croce (1866-1952), historian, philosopher and critic
Carlo Levi (1902-), novelist, artist, physician
Alberto Moravia (1907-), novelist

Musicians

Giovanni Palestrina (1525-1594), composer, especially of music for Roman Catholic Church
Claudio Monteverde (1567-1643), composer of songs, church music and operas; often called father of opera
Antonius Stradivarius (1644-1737), maker of violins, violas, cellos
Antonio Vivaldi (1675-1743), composer and violinist
Giuseppe Antonio Guarnieri (1687?-1745), violin maker
Nicolo Paganini (1782-1840), violinist and composer
Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901), composer of *Rigoletto, Il Trovatore, La Traviata* and other operas
Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924), composer of *La Boheme, La Tosca, Madame Butterfly* and other operas
Arturo Toscanini (1867-1957), orchestra and opera conductor
Luisa Tetrazzini (1871-1940), operatic soprano
Enrico Caruso (1873-1921), operatic tenor
Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936), pianist, conductor, composer
Amelita Galli-Curci (1889-), operatic soprano
Ezio Pinza (1895-1957), operatic basso and musical comedy star

Artists

Giotto (1276?-1337?), one of the founders of modern painting, early Renaissance artist, architect
Ghiberti (1378-1455), sculptor; designed famous bronze doors for Baptistry of Florence
Donatello (1386-1466), sculptor of bronze *Crucifixion, David,* and other works
Lucca della Robbia (1397-1482), sculptor in marble and terra cotta
Botticelli (1444-1510), painter of *The Birth of Venus, Primavera* and other works
Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), scientist, inventor, philosopher, writer, sculptor, painter of *The Last Supper, Mona Lisa, Virgin of the Rocks* and other works
Michelangelo (1475-1564), architect; painter of Sistine Chapel ceiling and other works; sculptor of *Pietà, Moses, David,* figures for Medici tombs in Florence, and other works
Titian (1477-1576), painter of many portraits, especially of outstanding Venetians, and of many religious and mythological subjects
Raphael (1483-1520), architect, designer, curator of antiquities, painter of many Madonnas, of the frescoes on the walls of the Raphael Stanze (Rooms) in the Vatican, and many other works
Cellini (1500-1571), metal-worker and sculptor; writer of famous autobiography
Palladio (1518-1580), architect; author of basic work on classical architecture
Bernini (1598-1680), painter, sculptor, architect, designer

Index

Adriatic Sea, 50
Africa, 3
Agrigento, 57
Alps Mountains, 1, 2, 3, 6, 10
America, 11, 58
Antwerp, 43
Apennine Range, 1
Appian Way, 5
Arabs, 3, 5, 43, 57
Arno River, 38, 41
Asia, 3
Austrians, 52
Barbarossa, 53
Bergamo, 18
Blue Grotto of Capri, 58
Bologna, 24
Brescia, 18
Caesar, Julius, 33
Capri, 56, 58
Carthage, 3
Carthaginians, 2
Caruso, Enrico, 22, 23
Castle Gandolfo, 35, 36
Charlemagne, 42
Christ, Jesus, 3, 5, 20, 21
Christianity, 58
Columbus, Christopher, 4, 53, 58
Constantinople (*see* Istanbul)
Corsica, 57
Crusades, 21
Doria, Admiral Andrea, 53
Etruscans, 2, 3
Fascists, 26
Florence, 12, 17, 20, 38, 41, 43
France, 1, 5, 10, 42, 57
Frederick the Great, 43
French, the, 3
Gauls, 52
Genoa, 4, 10, 20, 43, 52-53
Germany, 26, 38
Golden Wheel, 18
Gondolas, 49
Goths, 3
Grand Canal of Venice, 48
Greeks, 2-5, 43, 57, 58
Herculaneum, 54, 55
Hitler, Adolf, 26
Holy Roman Empire, 42, 43
Huns, 3
Istanbul, 42
Italian —
  Architecture, 14
  Art, 43, 44
  Education, 24-25, 43
  Exploration, 4, 53, 58
  Exports, 10-12
  Farming, 5-9
  Festival days, 16
  Food, 8, 10, 15, 16, 54
  Gifts to world, 58
  Government, 9, 25-27
  Imports, 10-12
  Industry, 8, 10-13, 52-54
  Music, 22-23, 52
  Natural resources, 2, 56, 57
  People, 2-5
  Piazzas, 15-16
  Sea trade, 51-53
  Sports, 17-19
  Terrain, 1, 2
  Tourist trade, 28-31, 38, 41
  Transportation, 5, 27
Italian Religious Holidays —
  Christmas, 20
  Easter, 20-21
  Epiphany, 20
  Lent, 20
Italian Riviera, 1, 20
Jerusalem, 43
Joseph, 20
La Scala Opera House, 52
Lateran Treaty, 34
Latins, 3
Leo III, 42
Lombardo, 3, 42
Lombardy, 3, 52
Marconi, 35
Mary, 20
Mediterranean Sea, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 14, 51, 53
Michelangelo, 35
Middle Ages, 32
Milan, 18, 43, 52
Mount Blanc, 1
Mount Etna, 1, 56
Mount Vesuvius, 1, 23, 53, 55
Murano, 13
Mussolini, Benito, 26
Naples, 1, 11, 43, 52-54, 58
Napoleon, 52
Nativity scenes, 20
North Africa, 1, 3
Palermo, 57
Palestrina, 22
Palio, 18
Papal State, 32, 34
Phoenicians, 2-5
Pilate, Pontius, 21
Po River, 2, 6
Po Valley, 2, 6
Pompeii, 55, 56
Ponte Vecchio, 38
Pope, the, 21, 34-36, 42
Puccini, 22
Renaissance, 38, 41-44, 51
Resina, 54
Respighi, 22
Roman Catholic Church, 3, 20-21, 27, 32, 34-36
Roman Empire, 3, 5, 42
Romans, 3, 4, 7, 27, 28, 30-33, 43, 52, 55, 56, 58
Rome, 1, 3, 5, 11, 18, 21, 24, 26-28, 30-36, 42, 43, 52, 58
Sahara Desert, 5
St. Peter, 36
St. Peter's Church, 36
St. Peter's Square, 36
San Remo, 20
Sardinia, 1, 32, 56, 57
Scala Sancta, 21
Seven Hills of Rome, 31, 32
Sicily, 1, 3, 8, 43, 56, 57
Siena, 18
Spanish, the, 3, 52
Swiss Guard, 35
Switzerland, 5, 35
Syracuse, 57
Tevere (*see* Tiber River)
Tiber River, 31, 32
Toscanini, Arturo, 22
Trastevere, 32-34
Trieste, 11
United States, 2, 10, 12, 13 54
Vandals, 3
Vatican State, 34-36
Venice, 10, 13, 43, 48-57
Verdi, 22
Via Appia (*see* Appian Way)
Viareggio, 20
Victor Emmanuel II, 32, 34
World War I, 38
World War II, 9, 10, 14, 26, 52, 53

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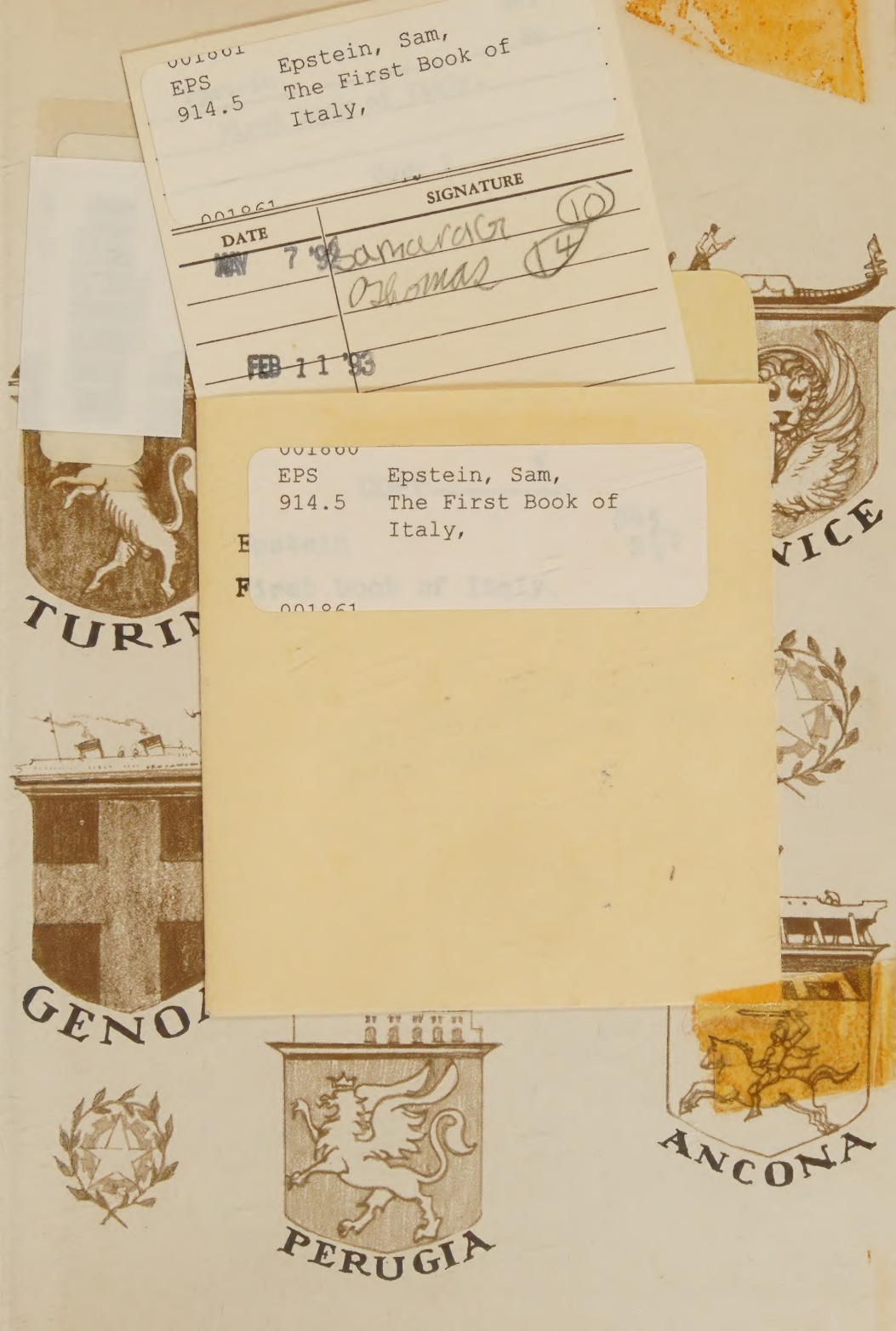
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